

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method, comprising:
forming a safety sign, including forming an EL lighting surface into a chosen pattern;
attaching the safety sign to one or more vehicles; and
driving the vehicles in a formation on the road wherein the safety signs are visible to provide guidance for the vehicles.

2. (Original) A method, comprising:
forming a safety sign, including:
selecting a pattern to convey a visual safety message;
attaching the pattern to an EL lighting surface;
attaching the safety sign to one or more vehicles; and
driving the vehicles in a formation on a road wherein the safety signs are visible to provide guidance for the vehicles.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the vehicles include snow plows.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein selecting a pattern to convey a visual safety message includes selecting a text message.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein attaching the pattern to an EL lighting surface includes attaching the pattern to an EL lighting surface with a yellow color when the EL lighting surface is illuminated.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein attaching the pattern to an EL lighting surface includes attaching the pattern to a substantially flat EL lighting surface dimensioned to comply with safety sign regulations.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein attaching the pattern to an EL lighting surface includes attaching the pattern to a substantially flat EL lighting surface of approximate rectangular dimensions of 72 inches wide and 8.5 inches tall.
8. (Original) A method, comprising:
forming one or more safety signs wherein each safety sign, includes:
selecting a pattern to convey a visual safety message;
attaching the pattern to an EL lighting surface;
attaching the safety sign to a transportation vehicle carrying an oversized load; and
driving the vehicle on a road wherein the safety sign is visible to provide warning of the oversized load.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the safety sign is attached to the front of the transportation vehicle.
10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the safety sign is attached to the rear of the transportation vehicle.
11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein at least one safety sign is attached to at least one mud guard.
12. (Original) A safety sign, comprising:
a pattern selected to convey a visual safety message, the pattern being positionable on a rigid or flexible surface;
an EL lighting surface that contrasts the pattern, allowing the pattern to be seen from a distance; and
a power source coupled to the EL lighting surface.
13. (Original) The safety sign of claim 12, wherein the pattern includes a text message.

14. (Original) The safety sign of claim 12, wherein the pattern includes a triangle.
15. (Original) The safety sign of claim 12, wherein the pattern is layered over the EL lighting surface to mask a portion of the EL lighting surface to provide contrast.
16. (Original) The safety sign of claim 12, wherein the pattern is formed from EL lighting material that has been cut to form the pattern.
17. (Original) The safety sign of claim 12, wherein the power source includes a battery.
18. (Original) The safety sign of claim 12, wherein the EL lighting surface is yellow when illuminated.
19. (Original) The safety sign of claim 12, further including a translucent layer of material over the EL lighting surface, wherein the translucent layer alters a color of the EL lighting surface.
20. (Original) The safety sign of claim 12, wherein the EL lighting surface is rectangular and approximately 72 inches wide by 8.5 inches tall.
21. (Currently Amended) The safety sign of claim 12, further comprising a mudflap mud flap, wherein the safety sign is attached to the mudflap mud flap.
22. (Currently Amended) A mudflap mud flap comprising an EL lighting surface, wherein the EL lighting surface includes a visual safety message.
23. (Currently Amended) A vehicle comprising the mudflap mud flap of claim 22.